

TriBella Productions

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March 9, 2006

To: Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and Members of the Labor Committee
From: Linda Bergonzi King
Re: SB 462

I was unable to attend your committee's public hearing yesterday because of commitments to my family but I feel it is important to let you know of my **support for Senate Bill 462, An Act Concerning a Fair Share Health Care Surcharge.**

I owned and operated a small public health communication company for 15 years. While I was self-employed, I paid exorbitant health care costs to have coverage for my husband and myself. In 2001, my husband was hospitalized several times for back surgeries. These surgeries put him out of work and I was forced to end my self-employment and find a job with benefits. While at this job, I gave birth to a premature son. His health care costs alone have exceeded \$1 million. I can only imagine the health care costs to my family had I still been self-employed. Had I been able to afford these benefits, I would still be self-employed today.

We have a health care crisis in this country and in this state. Small employers and families are suffering in this crisis. And while we are just trying to take care of our families and stay in business, huge, international, mega-corporations are taking advantage of the state health care system. I think this is unfair and put my small business at a competitive disadvantage.

It is critical that we address health care costs and insurance as a state. As a resident and taxpayer of this state, I want to know that my elected officials are working to make health care affordable for everyone. **I urge you to pass SB 462, a Fair Share Health Care bill.**